



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
December 2004/January 2005

## New Items Online

- CRT Questions and Answers , Video Broadcast of November 16, 2004
  - Video Stream [http://www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/CRT/CRT\\_Q&A/](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/CRT/CRT_Q&A/)
  - Written transcript of video stream: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/04NovQ&ATranscript.pdf>
- Grade 10 CRT Math Assessment Framework
  - Organized by content standard and benchmark
  - Contains specific grade-level examples for grade 10
  - <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/04CRTFrameworkG10.pdf>
- Math reference sheets that are provided to students when they take the Criterion-Referenced Test are online. These are not secure items and can be reviewed and used prior to testing.
  - Grade 4: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/MTG4MathRefSheet.pdf>
  - Grade 8: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/MTG8MathRefSheet.pdf>
  - Grade 10: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/MTG10MathRefSheet.pdf>
- Technical Manuals

Manuals are available that describe the technical processes involved in the development, scoring, standard setting, and reporting of the 2004 Criterion-Referenced Test and the Criterion-Referenced Test Alternate.

  - 2004 Criterion-Referenced Test Technical Manual: <http://w.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/04TechManual.pdf>
  - 2004 Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate Technical Manual: <http://w.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/04TechManualAlt.pdf>



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## Mark Your Calendars:

Test Administration Training for  
System Test Coordinators/CRT and NRT

- **February 8, 2005**
- 9 am - noon
- Video Broadcast
  - Site information and registration will be available in January.
  - If you would like to request a broadcast at a site in your community, please contact Clare Bridge at the Office of Public Instruction by January 12, 2005.
    - ❖ [cbridge@state.mt.us](mailto:cbridge@state.mt.us)
    - ❖ 406-444-4431
- Agenda:
  - MontCAS, Phase 2: Criterion-Referenced Test
  - MontCAS, Phase 1: Iowa Tests
  - MontCAS, Phase 1: Iowa Tests, Alternate Assessment
  - NOTE: Training for teachers administering the Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt) will not be presented at this conference. Each teacher with a student registered to take the CRT-Alt will receive a training tape. In addition, the Office of Public Instruction will conduct question and answer sessions. Details will be available in January.

## Implementation and Administration Schedule

### MontCAS, Phase 2: Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) and Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt)

In the table below is the implementation and administration schedule of the CRT and the CRT-Alt with the 2005 and tentative 2006-2008 testing windows.

Spring of 2005	Test Window- CRT March 7, 2005 - March 30, 2005	Test Window-CRT-Alt February 14, 2005 - March 30, 2005	Grades 4, 8, 10	Subjects Reading and Math
Spring of 2006	Tentative Test Window: CRT March 6 - March 29, 2006	Tentative Test Window: CRT-Alt February 13 - March 29, 2006	Grades 3-8 and 10	Subjects Reading and Math
2007	March 5 - March 28, 2007	February 12 - March 28, 2007	3-8 and 10	Reading and Math
2008	March 3 - March 26, 2008	February 11 - March 26, 2008	3-8 and 10	Reading and Math
2008	March 3 - March 26, 2008	February 11 - March 26, 2008	4, 8, and 10	Science

## CRT Released Item Workshops

The Office of Public Instruction will present workshops on using information from the CRT released items in the classroom. Strategies for using item statistics and the released items will be presented in January at the following sites: Chester, Cut Bank, Geyser, Belgrade, Livingston, Anaconda, Kalispell, Libby, Pablo, Miles City, Deer Lodge, and Wolf Point. Training in the Missoula and Billings area is also being investigated.

Clare Bridge at the Office of Public Instruction is handling arrangements.

- Contact information for Clare: 444-4431 or cbridge@state.mt.us
- If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact Clare. **Please do not contact the sites.**
- And, if you would like to host a session in February, please contact Clare.

## Bar Codes for Spring 2005 CRT

All schools will provide Measured Progress with enrollment data online in advance of the spring 2005 CRT testing window so that Measured Progress can prepare and provide the labels. The window for entering the enrollment information is **December 8, 2004 - January 7, 2005**.

- Memos with secure passwords were mailed to system test coordinators the first week in December.
- Codes
  - The Assessment Office at the Office of Public Instruction has received inquiries about system and school codes. The Montana Directory of Schools lists those codes for each system (Ss) and school (Sc). If you are unsure of your system or school code, please consult your copy of the Directory or it can be accessed online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Directory/index.html>.
  - The system and school codes are four digit numbers preceded by the abbreviations:
    - ❖ Ss = system code (4 digit number)
    - ❖ Sc = school code (4 digit number)

## Online Registration for the Spring 2005 CRT-Alternate

Students who meet the requirements to take the 2005 CRT-Alternate must be registered online. Students in grades four, eight, or ten who were not registered in October 2004 may be registered during the January 2005 window: Monday, January 3, 2005 through Friday, January 14, 2005.

## Criterion-Referenced Test - Alternate (CRT-Alt) Training and Materials

Because of advance registration by school, grade, and teacher for the CRT-Alt, materials will be sent directly to each teacher. The kit, which is being prepared by Gail McGregor at the University of Montana, will include a CD, paper materials, and a training video. The video will provide the training for each teacher.

Follow-up question and answer sessions will be conducted early in February as teachers begin to prepare to administer the test. Details about the question and answer sessions will be included with the materials and in the January *JUMP*.

## Disaggregated Enrollment Collection for March 2005

The Office of Public Instruction will be collecting disaggregated enrollment data in March 2005 in conjunction with the CRT testing. Schools will be asked to report school enrollment as of the last day of the school's CRT testing window. The report format for the March collection will be similar to the disaggregated enrollment report that was included in OPI's Annual Data Collection in the fall. The disaggregated enrollment form requires schools to report school populations by grade level, gender, and racial/ethnic categories. Within these subgroups, schools will be asked to report the number of students that have been identified as students with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency, migrant students, and students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch programs. For more information, contact Linda Atwood, 444-6712 or latwood@state.mt.us.

## Math Short Answer Questions on the Spring 2005 CRT

In the 2004 administration of the math portion of the CRT, students bubbled their answers in a math grid. Because of the confusion about the bubbling, all of the answers were hand scored.

For the 2005 administration, there will be no grid. Students will write their answers which will be hand scored.

## Large Print and Braille Test for the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

The Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) has provided Measured Progress with the schools and grades needing large print and/or Braille formats for the CRT. These materials will be included in the shipment of materials from Measured Progress.

If you have students requiring a large print or Braille test booklet, please contact Nancy Hall, Measured Progress, at 1 (888) 792-2741 or [nhall@measuredprogress.org](mailto:nhall@measuredprogress.org) to confirm your order.

## Future of the NRT Survey

The Board of Public Education is completing its study of the future of the Norm-Referenced Tests (The Iowa, Phase 1 of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System). A brief survey will be placed online so that systems will have another opportunity to contribute to the decision.

The link and password for that survey will be emailed to system test coordinators on December 21. The survey must be completed by noon on January 10, 2005.

## New Montana Program Manager at Riverside

Maile Wicklander has replaced Erika Watson for the spring 2005 Iowa Test administration. Here is the contact information for Maile (rhymes with Smiley): 1-800-767-8429 x 6915 or [Maile\\_wicklander@hmco.com](mailto:Maile_wicklander@hmco.com). Please call Maile about off-grade ordering and bar codes. She will also help with on-grade ordering information. Welcome Maile.

## Spring 2005 Statewide Testing Timelines

Below are tables of timelines for phases 1 and 2 of MontCAS. Please print and keep them handy. Please note the last days for shipping materials to the testing companies are **April 4 for the Criterion-Referenced Tests (MontCAS, Phase 2) and April 15 for the Iowa Tests (MontCAS Phase 1)**. Those deadlines are critical for state results and for Adequate Yearly Progress (AY) calculations based on the CRT.

### MontCAS Phase 2, the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

December 8, 2004 - January 7, 2005	CRT online test registration
January 3 - 14, 2005	CRT-Alt online registration
January/February 2005 TBA	CRT-Alt kits and training sessions.
February 4, 2005	Test administration materials online
February 4, 2005	CRT-Alt test materials online via password.
February 4, 2005	Test Coordinators will receive Test Coordinator Manuals from Measured Progress
February 8, 2005	OPI conducts test administration video conference.
February 14 - March 30, 2005	CRT-Alternate testing window
February 22-24, 2005	Measured Progress delivers testing materials (including large print and Braille) to systems. Materials are packed by school and grade.
February 24 - March 4, 2005	Systems inventory and distribute testing material to schools. If additional materials are needed, contact MP.
February 24 - March 4, 2005	Systems provide local training sessions for school test administrators.
March 7 - 30, 2005	CRT testing window
April 4, 2005	Last day for systems to return completed answer documents to Measured Progress.
April 4 - 15, 2005	Systems review student level demographic level information online

### MontCAS Phase 1, the Iowa Tests

December 14, 2004 - January 10, 2005	Systems order barcode labels from Riverside. These are not included in the contract and are at district expense.
February 1-3, 2005	Riverside Publishing delivers all pretest packages to System Test Coordinators.
February 4, 2005	Test administration materials online
February 8, 2005	OPI conducts test administration video conference.
March 1-3, 2005	Riverside Publishing delivers new answer documents, Grade 4 Practice Tests, and <i>Montana Guides for Test Coordinators and Administrators</i> to systems.
March 3 -10 , 2005	Systems inventory and distribute testing materials. Use the <i>Fax Me!</i> form found in the pretest package to order additional materials.
March 3 - 18, 2005	Systems provide local training sessions for test administrators.
March 15-18, 2005	Systems administer Grade 4 Practice Tests. (Optional)
March 23 - April 13, 2005	Testing Window
April 15, 2005	Last day for systems to return completed answer documents to the Riverside Scoring Center.
March 31 - April 6, 2005	Tests scored at the Riverside Scoring Center. Stage 1 reports will be scored on a first-in-first-out basis, and mailed approximately 15 business days from the date the tests are received by Riverside in a scorable condition.

For further information, contact:  
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